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Tuesday, 08 March 2005, 14:11

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DUBLIN 000286

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 01/31/2015

TAGS PREL, ECON, EFIN, SOCI

SUBJECT: IRELAND: FINANCE MINISTER COWEN ON THE NORTH,

MONEY LAUNDERING, AND HIGHER EDUCATION

REF: DUBLIN 210

Classified By: Ambassador James C. Kenny; Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

11. (C) Summary. In a brief March 7 meeting with Finance Minister Brian Cowen, the Ambassador recommended U.S.-style tax incentives for univers

12. (U) On March 7, the Ambassador held a brief, cordial meeting with Finance Minister Brian Cowen. XXXXXXXXXXXX also attended, along with XXXXX
Higher Education Funding

13. (C) The Ambassador related concerns expressed by U.S. firms and Irish universities that the quality and number of third-level graduates (rc

14. (SBU) Cowen thanked the Ambassador for his interest and cited the Government's focus on competition, both at the university level and for t

15. (C) Cowen confirmed that private/corporate donations to education endowments were currently not tax-deductible, a reflection of the fact th
Northern Ireland; Money Laundering

16. (C) On the Northern Ireland peace process, Cowen expected that Sinn Fein would "go off to sort itself out" following the party's annual cor

17. (C) When the Ambassador asked for an update on the GOI money-laundering investigation into the February 17-18 police seizures of roughly eu
KENNY